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VOLUME # 2

( F E B R U A R Y   1 9 9 1 )

ISSUE # 4

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N O R T H   A M E R I C A N   N E W S

**K8MFO/6Y5 JAMAICA:** The DX Bulletin which is published by Chod Harris VP2ML reports that Don Karvonen K8MFO will be in Jamaica until February 20th using his call /6Y5. He is primarily there for the ARRL CW DX Contest on February 16-17 but was scheduled to be active on the WARC bands and 6 meters during the rest of his stay. If you work K8MFO/6Y5 on 6M, QSL's go via W8TPS.

**REPORT FROM K80OK:** Mike Eilers K80OK (MI EN73) sends along the following letter:

"I would like to see something in print in the near future about Stratwarm Alerts. WWV literature mentions them but not what affect they might have on VHF propagation. Also, with the WWV numbers seemingly worthless at times, my mind turns to the position of the Jet Stream in relation to propagation. Not enough study here, but when the Jet Stream is north of us, the openings seem to occur. Any speculation in print on this theory would also be appreciated."

**HH7PV QSL SITUATION:** Apparently, obtaining QSL's from N2AU for contacts with HH7PV continue. Cliff N9EJG tells me that he has sent N2AU three (3) QSL cards to confirm a May 31, 1988 QSO with HH7PV. Even though the postal rates have recently increased, he will try for a fourth time to obtain a confirmation. Cliff further states that he is having difficulty obtaining a QSL for a June 1988 QSO with HI8W. He would like to know if anyone has any information on this one.

**REPORT FROM TI2NA:** Erik Roy TI2NA of San Jose, Costa Rica reports that beginning at 1515Z on February 1st he had an excellent opening into SM, OH, and ON. At 1545Z the European signals began to fade and several Canadians were worked including VE1ZZ, VE1YX, VE1DX and VE1BVL. Erik goes on to say that he checks for openings using the spurious signals of TV-2 transmitters in other countries. For example, TV-2 in Costa Rica generates a spur on 50.112 MHz. Other spurs often heard by Erik but not yet identified are often found on 50.099, 50.104 and 50.108 MHz.

S O U T H   A M E R I C A N   N E W S

**BOLIVIA (CP) OPERATION PLANNED:** During the last few weeks I have been making arrangements for a DXpedition to Santa Cruz, Bolivia and here's the latest:

On February 14th I had a conversation on 15 meters with Glen Stewart CP6BY who resides in Santa Cruz. After explaining to him that Bolivia was desperately needed by many operators and that he was located in an excellent area of the world for 6M work, Glen agreed to give the band a try. In addition, he also extended to me an invitation to operate from his QTH. As it stands right now, I am planning to be operational from Bolivia between March 29th and April 8th, which will cover two weekends in order to give the working people who can't be at their 6M radios Monday through Friday two chances at working me. The 6M equipment to be used on this trip which consists of an IC551, N4LTA (624 Systems) 100 watt amplifier, and antenna (if one can be donated), will be left with Glen for him to use. Since Glen has no prior experience with 6M activities, I will set-up the equipment for him and will attempt to give him as much information regarding propagation as possible. He says that he operates on 20M quite a bit and that pile-ups do not bother him, so I suspect that he'll work out okay on 50 MHz when the band opens up. My license application has been mailed off to La Paz and I am hoping that someone can exert some influence to move things along quickly. License applications for CP are sent to the Bolivian Radio Club who then in turn contact the authorities. A permit is said to generally take up to three months to process but I am hoping that someone can intervene on my behalf and speed things along. If a license is received in time, my call will probably be KA3B/CP6. If a license is not received in time, I'll probably operate under CP6BY's call. Any further developments will be reported in a future issue.

**XO0X SAN FELIX:** The 6M equipment for XO0X was shipped on February 4th. Hopefully he will be on the band by the end of the month in time for the start of the TEP season.

A F R I C A N   N E W S

**VQ9TB CHAGOS:** Joel KG6DX reports that KH2BP (now VQ9TB) has an IC551 and a 75 watt amplifier which was loaned by Kazu JA1RJU. This gear was sitting at Joel's QTH, pre-positioned for a future JA DXpedition, but Kazu said to send it to Chagos instead. In addition to this equipment, VQ9TB will soon be receiving a 5 element beam to replace the 3 element beam which is there now.

**5V7SA 6M SITUATION:** I received a letter from Paul WB4LFM (5V7SA's QSL Manager) and he stated that Steve (5V7SA in Togo, West Africa) would be willing to donate the time and effort to 6M work. Steve and Paul have three schedules per week on 15 meters and I am planning to speak with them very soon and make any possible arrangements regarding equipment, etc.

# N E W S      F R O M      O C E A N I A

**AUCKLAND (ZL9) DX-PEDITION PLANNED:** A DXpedition group consisting of ZL2TPY, ZL1OK, ZL1AVC and JH4RHF are scheduled to depart New Zealand on March 2nd for Auckland Island. This HF/6M DXpedition will take place from March 5-9, with 6M being operated by Kerry ZL2TPY (ZL9TPY). JA1VOK is planning to provide donations locally to support this DXpedition. The equipment to be used on 6M will be a Tokyo KW Amplifier and a 5 element yagi.

Kerry's planned trip to ZL8 is probably (but not definitely) cancelled at this time. He is seriously considering a trip to ZK3 in early April but he desperately needs transportation money to-and-from Tokelau (ZK3). The projected cost is about \$2,000.00 US. Because most JA's already have ZK3 confirmed on 6M, they are not willing to foot the bill for this trip (which is understandable).

**CHRISTMAS ISLAND (VK9X) DX-PEDITION PLANNED:** The DX Bulletin which is published by Chod Harris VP2ML reports that seven Japanese operators will be active from Christmas Island between April 2-9 on all bands 160-6M, CW and SSB. Operators and callsigns to be used are: JAØGPT - VK6BFV/VK9X, JHØCFK - VK6BFX/VK9X, JHØPCO - VK6BFW/VK9X, JHØMHE - VK6BFZ/VK9X, JEØVAX - VK6BFY/VK9X, JRØCGJ - VK6BFU/VK9X, and JRØBQT - VK9AG. On 6M they will transmit on 50.125 MHz, listening on 50.150 MHz. QSL's go via JAØGPT.

**SAIPAN (KHØ):** In the last issue I reported that Mitsunobu Ichino JF2MBF would be active from Saipan with the callsign KC6BLA/AE/KHØ. Two days after issue #3's mailing, Mitsunobu informed me that he would be using the call KC6OPD/WHØ.

**REPORT FROM ZL1MQ:** Cliff Betson ZL1MQ sends along the following activity report:

"After the Spring F2 DX being below average and two years of mediocre Summer Es, this November/December Es season hit a new peak of activity. Due to the large increase of operators on the band, openings that have been missed in the past will become less. After a Spring season with ZL2-3-4 getting few (if any) openings via F2, the Es season proved much better with Es covering all of ZL, climaxing with excellent contacts from ZL3-4 to Japan. The Es began at the beginning of November and slowly built to a peak on December 24th when all VK areas were worked (VK1-9) as well as the Pacific, only to be followed by a larger peak on January 1st which spread into the North Pacific with JA and KH6 being contacted. Whether this will signify that F2 is due to decrease in the future remains to be seen. Only time will tell, or is it due to the fact that Es on 50 MHz is more wide spread and intense than on 51-52 MHz?

During the two months of the peak of the Es season, ZL3TY had 206 VK contacts and on December 24th, logged 78 JA's during an Es event. The Christmas opening of December 24/25 saw the best DX with ZL2TPY working W5VGE, N5JHV and WA7EPU who also worked ZLØAAA. The only station heard in Auckland was W5MC(?) on CW who did not answer any call, then XE1GRR appeared to ZL2TPY, ZL1UFJ, ZL1MQ, ZL2UBG, ZL2BPU and ZLØAAA. December 26th saw NI6E/KH6 to ZL3AAU and ZL3TIC as well as KH6JJK and KH6RW. Gene XE1GE made a welcome reappearance on December 26th when the band was open to JA contacting ZL3TIC and ZL4TBN.

The summer Es this time produced some good solid openings with ZL3-4 working into ZL1. Heard with a good signal was Snow ZL3TSM (an XYL) who received her 50 MHz permit in late November. She made her first contact on December 12th when she worked VK7IK Moss in Hobart, followed by a contact a few nights later with VK2TOY Simone in Sydney for a first YL-to-YL QSO on 50 MHz to VK. So how about some more YL operators on 6 meters? Snow is still a bit mike shy, so if you hear her, be a bit patient until she becomes comfortable with operating.

50 Mhz Permits are on the increase with the latest being ZL1UFJ, ZL1TBB, ZL1TJB, ZL1ULN all in Auckland. The Napier Hastings list shows ZL2KT, ZL2AQR, ZL2AGI, ZL2ABX, ZL2ANS, ZL2QS, ZL2BNH, ZL2BPU, ZL2BPY, ZL2UBG, ZL2ANS, ZL2NF, and ZL2TJX. Further south show ZL3AAU, ZL4TBN, ZL4LV and ZL4AI. Now all districts are represented on 50 MHz with 24 hour permits. This brings the total to somewhere around 50 stations.

Our first W opening of the new year took place on January 13th when ZL4LV contacted N6XQ and N6CW. ZL3TY came up with N6XQ, N6CW, NI6E/KH6, 3D2PO, VK8GF and numerous VK's. This was followed at 2205Z when ZL1ANJ, ZL1UFJ, ZL3NE, and ZL1MQ worked WD4MPV in Alabama plus W5-7 stations, until 0030Z on the 14th. This was an excellent opening with up to 21 stations being contacted."

**WIDEBAND FM FROM ZL TV:** Russ W7IDZ says that ZL1ANJ mentioned that to hear the wideband FM from the ZL TV stations, don't use SSB but FM. The three TV's in ZL are: 50.740 MHz, 50.750 MHz, and 50.760 MHz.

**NORFOLK ISLAND (VK9N) OPERATION PLANNED:** Steve VK3OT sends along word that VK9YQS will move to Norfolk Island (VK9N) in mid-March for a 3 month stay.

**REPORT FROM VK3OT:** Steve Gregory VK3OT sends along the log extracts for his two European openings which took place in early February:

<b>FEBRUARY 5th:</b>	1022Z	SM6CUG	559	CW	1025Z	DL9CA	539	CW	1054Z	SM6CKU	559	CW
	1023Z	OH2TI	599	CW	1042Z	OH2TI	559	CW	1104Z	OH2TI	59	SSB
	1023Z	LA9ZV	559	CW	1045Z	OZ7DX	559	CW	1106Z	SM6DER	57	SSB
	1024Z	F2AIA	539	CW	1050Z	JA5CMO	55	SSB	1120Z	G3HBR	329	CW
<b>FEBRUARY 8th:</b>	0913Z	DK3EG	419	CW	0948Z	PAØFM	559	CW	1006Z	OZ1DJJ	559	CW
	0916Z	DL8HCZ	559	CW	0948Z	G3WOS	559	CW	1007Z	OZ1ELF	559	CW
	0930Z	G3SDL	559	CW	0948Z	G3FG	559	CW	1010Z	OZ1DJJ	55	SSB
	0935Z	DK6JL	559	CW	0948Z	OZ1ELF	559	CW	1015Z	SM7BAE	559	CW
	0937Z	ON4PS	559	CW	0949Z	G3VFY	559	CW	1016Z	PAØOOS	559	CW
	0940Z	PA3EUI	539	CW	0950Z	G4MFH	559	CW	1024Z	OZ1BVW	579	CW
	0941Z	SM7FJE	559	CW	0951Z	G4CCZ	579	CW	1025Z	OZ6OL	559	CW
	0942Z	SM7AED	559	CW	0956Z	G3HBR	539	CW	1026Z	OZ8RW	55	SSB
	0942Z	OZ8RW	559	CW	0957Z	G3NVO	559	CW	1035Z	SM7FJE	57	SSB
	0945Z	PAØOOS	559	CW	0959Z	PA3OIC	559	CW	1059Z	OH2TI	559	CW
	0945Z	OZ8RW	55	SSB	1000Z	DL9AAL	539	CW	1100Z	SM7FJE	579	CW
	0946Z	PAØHIP	55	SSB	1004Z	PA2HJS	559	CW	1104Z	DL8HCZ	559	CW
	0947Z	SM7SCO	559	CW	1005Z	ON4AMX	559	CW				

Steve's equipment consists of a Mirage amplifier at 120 watts output and an 11 element yagi.

# E U R O P E A N      N E W S

**PE1MVJ/MM:** Peter PA3EUI reports that Hans PE1MVJ is operating maritime mobile once again. Hans has been assigned to a new ship so it is unclear whether or not 6M operation will be possible. The latest details regarding his itinerary are:

FEB 11:	Panama City, Panama
FEB 27:	Savona, Italy
MAR 1:	Livorno, Italy
MAR 5:	Naples, Italy
MAR 8:	Stete, Spain
MAR 10:	Valencia, Spain

QLS's for PE1MVJ/MM go via PA3EUI

**SCANDINAVIAN ACTIVITY CONTEST:** Arnie SM7AED reports that during 1991 a 50 MHz Activity Contest will run on every fourth Tuesday in the month between 1800Z-2200Z during the winter and 1700Z-2100Z during the summer. The contest exchange must be RS(T) + full locator (ie: JO65NI). Even though stations outside of Scandinavia can not participate in the contest, it may be a good opportunity to work some new squares.

**IRELAND ACTIVITY:** The 6M band is now available to "B" licensees in Southern Ireland. Due to R.T.E. use of VHF TV (Band 2), operation is limited to non-broadcast hours and strictly on a non-interference basis. All other restrictions as per UK regulations. Broadly speaking, R.T.E. transmits Monday-Friday, close-down between 2300Z-0100Z and weekends 0930Z-0100Z (approximately).

**REPORT FROM GJ4ICD:** Geoff Brown GJ4ICD reports that on February 1st at 1057Z he worked PT7NK on 6M for DXCC Country #100. (Congratulations...KA3B). I am assuming that Geoff is not only the first UK station to reach the magic 100 mark, but may very well be the first station on the European Continent to do so. Now it is a matter of obtaining the necessary cards.

Finally, Geoff makes the following observation: "It ceases to amaze me why during widespread openings across the Atlantic, the only stations worked from W/VE are myself and GI8YDZ (where there is a distance of quite a few hundred miles between us both)!! In these openings across the pond it always seems to favor the stations that are very close to the sea. This situation has been noticed several times also, with GM0EWX and myself the only ones working the DX."

**OZ7IGY BEACON CUSTODIAN INFO NEEDED:** In order to get a 1991 beacon survey form completed for OZ7IGY, I need to know who the beacon operator/custodian is. The 1991 Callbook lists the address for OZ7IGY as: Beacon Station, Industrievj 12, DK-4340 Toelloese, Denmark, however, my envelope was returned and stamped as undeliverable/addressee unknown.

**REPORT FROM PA3EUI:** Peter van der Woude PA3EUI sends along his log extract for early February which contains some interesting DX (both worked and heard). Only his Asian and Pacific loggings are presented below:

FEB 4	0920-1220Z	R1 (USSR)	FEB 8	0930-1220Z	KG6UH/DU1, KE0SC/DU3
FEB 5	0830-1210Z	R1 (USSR) & C1 (CHINA)		0936Z	WKD VK3OT
	0900-0925Z	KG6UH/DU1		0945-1110Z	JE6JYT, JR6WPT, JR6WXY, JR6UDM
	0908Z	WKD KG6UH/DU1		1010-1045Z	VK5RO
FEB 6	0815-1130Z	R1 (USSR) & C1 (CHINA)		1020-1225Z	R1 (USSR) & C1 (CHINA)
	0855-1015Z	KG6UH/DU1		1030-1150Z	E2 (MALAYSIA)
FEB 7	0750-1140Z	R1 (USSR) & C1 (CHINA)	FEB 9	0855-1040Z	KG6UH/DU1, KE0SC/DU3, KE9A/DU3
	0830-0835Z	JA6IEF		1010Z	WKD KE9A/DU3
	0830-1005Z	KG6UH/DU1		1110-1135Z	R1 (USSR)
FEB 8	0840-0920Z	R1 (USSR) & C1 (CHINA)	FEB 10	0950-0955Z	VK2QF
	0930-1015Z	VK3OT			

**Remarks:** R1 is 49.750 +/- with picture identified  
 C1 is 49.750 +/- with picture identified  
 E2 is 48.250 +/- with picture identified (for all these there was in-band video)

\*KG6UH/DU1, KE9A/DU3 and VK3OT were worked with 15 watts into a 1/4 wave horizontal ground plane with optimal radiation between 045° and 110° with an extremely low angle of elevation of the main lobe (antenna height 45 meters/145 feet above ground level). All others were worked with the same power, but with a dipole.

\*During a number of openings to the east I heard a carrier on 50.053 MHz which seemed like a normal video-carrier (like on 49.750 MHz). Does anyone know anything about this carrier? Could it be either Channel A0+ or R1+ or C1+??

**U.K. SIX METRE GROUP SUMMER SPORADIC Es CONTEST:** To take advantage of the summer Es on 6M and the resulting high level of activity, the UK Six Metre Group is sponsoring this fun contest which is open to all members of the Group. The contest will run from 0000Z on June 8th until 2400Z on June 9th (48 hours). Categories are single operator fixed station, SWL, and all others including portable and multi-op. The G8VR Cup will be awarded to the overall winner with certificates being awarded to the winners and runner-ups of each section. If you would like a copy of the rules and log sheets, send me an SASE....KA3B.

**Note:** In addition to the rules and log sheets for the above contest, I also have available application forms for the UK Six Metre Group and their various awards. If you need any of these items, please send me an SASE with two units of postage and I will be more than happy to supply you with all the required forms.....KA3B.

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**1991 6 METER BEACON SURVEY:** If you received a beacon survey form from me, please return it as soon as possible. To date, about 80% of those who were sent forms have returned them. Before I begin to prepare the new 1991 listing, I would like to have as many completed forms as possible as to ensure the accuracy of the data. If you are aware of a new beacon which has just been activated please let me know ASAP, as the list is updated only twice a year. Thank you...KA3B.

## ASIAN NEWS

4X1IF RECEIVES PERMISSION TO OPERATE ON 6M: At press time I learned that Ralph Rozenbaum 4X1IF of Raanana, Israel received his operating permit for 6M work. I do not know if there are others who've also received permission, or exactly what the operating restrictions are. I will hopefully have these details in the next issue.

UL7GCC KAZAKH SSR: Mike Chirkov UL7GCC of Alma Ata in the Kazakh Republic of the USSR is the first station from the Soviet Union that has shown up from time to time on the 6M net (28.885 MHz). He is using a home-brewed 6M converter and a 5 element yagi. Located in grid MN83, he is reported to have made at least one cross-band QSO so far with a station in G-land.

HZ1AB SAUDI ARABIA: Roger Webb WB4WTC reports that Bert Godlewski has not been active due to the Persian Gulf Crisis, however, he indicates that he soon may be back on the air. Until a new HZ call is issued to Bert, he will continue to utilize the HZ1AB club callsign.

ZC4/GØJHC OPERATION CANCELLED: Just after issue #3 was mailed out a few weeks ago, I received word from Neil Carr GØJHC that his planned Cyprus (ZC4) operation had to be cancelled. Due to the Gulf crisis, all flights from the U.K. to Cyprus have been cancelled.

OGASAWARA ISLAND OPERATION PLANNED: Joel KG6DX received word from JHØHQP that JHØBBE will operate /JD1 from Ogasawara Island between February 21-22. The equipment to be used will be an IC551D and a 3 element beam. No other information was available.

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50 MHz DX Bulletin Awards Program: At the present time I am contemplating the idea of beginning an Awards Program for 6M operation. I am currently taking into consideration several factors regarding the issuance of awards (certificates) and whether or not such a program would be worthwhile. Are there enough people interested in getting certificates denoting a certain level of operating prowess to make the program worth managing? This is most important question that has yet to be answered. Initially, I am looking at making available two awards for the 6M operator. (This isn't definite. I have to first ascertain if there is enough interest). The first award is the NA-50-DX Certificate which is issued for working and confirming (a yet to be specified) number of DXCC countries on the North American Continent (of which there are 48). The second award is the SA-50-DX Certificate which would be issued for working and confirming (a yet to be specified) number of DXCC countries on the South American Continent (of which there are 29). Starting a new awards program might be a good idea, however, there are many factors which have to be looked at...such as, what is the start date for valid confirmations? Should an operator's all-time country count be considered? Or should a date be set counting only those QSO's made after a particular time, such as January 1, 1991, for example? If it is determined that there are enough paper-chasers amongst us to make the program worthwhile, I will then begin to draw up a set of rules and report forms. Let it be known, however, that if this thing gets off the ground, I will do everything within reason to ensure that the certificates are of high-quality with vivid colors. Let me know what you think...KA3B.  
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1990 KA3B 6 METER REPORTS: A limited supply of the entire set of 1990 KA3B 6 METER REPORTS is available. The entire set of REPORTS in a folder (which amounts to 128 pages of DX information, equipment news, beacon updates, etc.) can be purchased for \$20.00 payable to Harry Schools. The complete set will be sent via First Class Mail (or Air Mail for DX stations). In addition to the REPORTS, I will also include a 25 page pamphlet concerning the history of 6 meters.

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NORTH AMERICAN NEEDED COUNTRIES SURVEY: Included with this issue of the 50 MHz DX Bulletin is the 1991 survey form for the most needed countries in North America. Due to the relatively small number of overseas subscribers as compared to the large number of U.S. and Canadian subscribers, ONLY North American readers will be receiving these forms. Hopefully, the results will serve as a guide for those planning future DXpeditions. The results of this year's survey will appear in a future issue of this newsletter. I hope you'll take part...Tnx KA3B.  
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